1	2	3	4	5
Tamil Nadu	1.1.03 to 31.12.03	72	876	876
(Incl. Pondicherry)	1.1.04 to 31.12.04	76	807	807
UP (East)	1.1.03 to 31.12.03	169	3930	3930
	1.1.04 to 31.12.04	163	4693	4677
UP (West)	1.1.03 to 31.12.03	65	1154	1716
	1.1.04 to 31.12.04	67	1155	1147
Uttaranchal	1.1.03 to 31.12.03	19	256	254
	1.1.04 to 31.12.04	25	285	283
West Bengal	1.1.03 to 31.12.03	40	388	388
(incl. Sikkim)	1.1.04 to 31.12.04	34	468	468
Kolkata	1.1.03 to 31.12.03	10	133	133
Telephones	1.1.04 to 31.12.04	6	51	46
Chennai	1.1.03 to 31.12.03	28	446	446
	1.1.04 to 31.12.04	27	69	69
MTNL	1.1.03 to 31.12.03	87	1258	1258
Mumbai	1.1.04 to 31.12.04			

High congestion levels in telephone networks

105. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether cellular operators are blaming lack of proper interconnection with BSNL as the primary reason for high congestion levels;

(b) if so, the reasons for not providing proper connection by BSNL; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) The provision and augmentation of

interconnection is a continuous process. BSNL provides interconnection based on technical feasibility as per time frame stipulated in the interconnection agreement between BSNL and Private Operators. Interconnection agreements also provide for mutually agreed special arrangements for expansion of BSNL switches, wherever BSNL is unable to provide interconnection. For such locations, if any cellular operator wants special arrangements, BSNL can take necessary action.

Quality of service provided by cellular operators

106. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD:
SHR1 C. PERUMAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) had set a deadline of December 31,2005 for cellular operators to meet the Quality of Service (QoS) norms;

(b) whether some cellular operators have failed to meet the deadline;

(c) if so, the action taken against those operators;

(d) whether the bench-mark for inter-network congestion level has been set by TRAI at less than 0.5 per cent;

(e) whether TRAI has found congestion levels at inter-network level was more than 10 per cent i.e. 20 times worse than the bench-mark level at more than 125 places; and

(f) whether cellular operators have complained about the poor inter-connection between them and the MTNL/BSNL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per the Performance Monitoring Report of the operators for the quarter ending December 2005, some of the bench-marks specified in Quality of Service (QoS) regulations of Telecom Regulatory